
WILDFIRE MITIGATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

Meeting Minutes – Tuesday, July 15, 2025



Committee Members Present

Daniel Berlant, CAL FIRE, Office of the State Fire Marshal
Anale Burlew, CAL FIRE
Brian Newman Lindsay, Department of Conservation
Ken DaRosa, Office of Energy Infrastructure Safety
J. Lopez, State Board of Forestry & Fire Protection
Brian Marshal, Office of Emergency Services
Deborah Halberstadt, Insurance Commissioner's Office
Michael McGuire, State Planning & Research
Jacy Hyde, California Fire Safe Council (virtual)
Roy Wright, Insurance Industry
Bill Villarino, Santa Barbara County Fire (virtual)
Christopher Ochoa, California Building Industry Association
Tristan Lanza, Department of Housing & Community Development (virtual)
Sophia Lemmo, California Association of Resource Conservation Districts (virtual)
Sean McGlynn, League of California Cities
Catherine Freeman, California State Association of Counties
Don Hankins, Tribal Government Representative (virtual)
Lisa Lien-Mager, California Natural Resources Agency

Members Absent

Lenya Quinn-Davidson, University of California Cooperative
Yana Valachovic, California Fire Science Consortium

CAL FIRE Staff in Attendance

Frank Bigelow, Deputy Director
Andrew Henning, Assistant Deputy Director
Christine McMorrow, Deputy Director
Matt Damon, Staff Chief
Emily Smith, Staff Chief
Shaun Fairbanks, Deputy Chief
Richard Brechbuehl, Deputy Chief
John Morgan, Staff Chief
Heather McCulley, Deputy Chief
Shane Vargas, Deputy Chief
Chris Ramey, Division Chief
Kara Garrett, Deputy State Fire Marshal III
Carrie Lewis, Associate Governmental Program Analyst
Jillian Fisher, Staff Services Manager I
Danh Dao, Staff Services Analyst

1. CALL TO ORDER 1:02 PM

Daniel Berlant

A. Welcome

The meeting was called to order at 1:02 PM by Daniel Berlant.

B. Roll Call – Carrie Lewis

A quorum was established with 13 committee members present in-person and five attending virtually.

C. Approval of the June 17, 2025, Meeting Minutes (**Motion Required**) – Daniel Berlant

Motion: Roy Wright moved to accept the June 17, 2025, meeting minutes; J Lopez seconded the motion.

Action: All members voted unanimously to approve the motion.

D. Approval of the July 15, 2025, Agenda (**Motion Required**) – Daniel Berlant

Motion: Sean McGlynn moved to accept the July 15, 2025, meeting agenda; Catherine Freeman seconded the motion.

Action: All members voted unanimously to approve the motion.

2. UPDATES

A. Division Report

i. Wildfire Preparedness

1. Defensible Space

1) Statewide SRA total for fiscal year-to-date 2024-25:

i. Final inspection numbers are under review to ensure reporting accuracy

ii. Qualified Entity assessment year-to-date total:

- o 1,182 assessments
- o Santa Cruz County has a class scheduled on July 22 and 23.

2. Burn Permits

1) 2025 year-to-date total: 57,458

i. Cultural Burn Permits: 1,445

3. Home Hardening

1) Supporting the California Wildfire Mitigation Program with technical assistance with home hardening recommended retrofits.

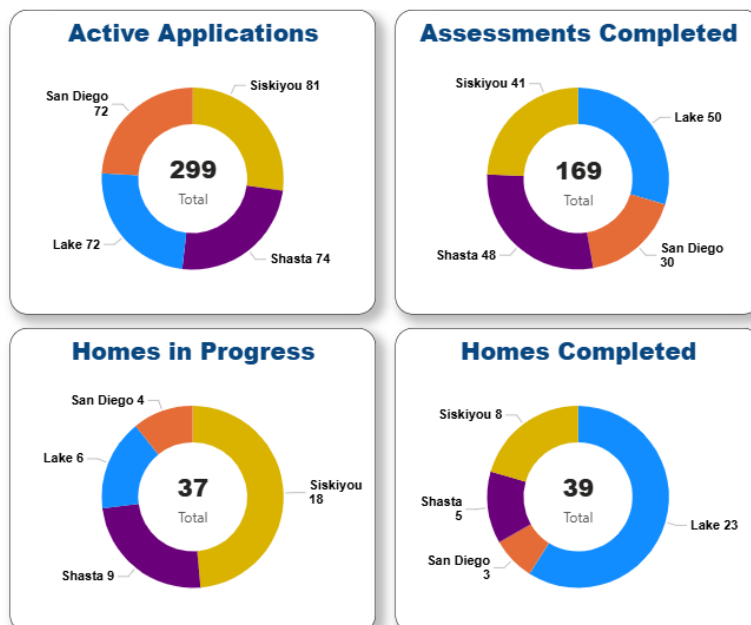
2) Attended the El Dorado County Office of Wildfire Preparedness and Resilience, Weber Creek Project Community Stakeholder meeting.

3) Staffing the Wildfire Prepared Home at CAL EXPO during the State Fair

4. Utility Wildfire Mitigation Program
 - 1) Currently reviewing PG&E, SDG&E, SCE, BVES, and Liberty's 2026-28 WMP submissions.
 - 2) Taught our last planned electrical equipment and PRC 4292 and 4293 training for DSIs in Natomas on July 9, 2025.
 - 3) Continue to have PSPSs initiated by IOSs due to current fire weather/red flag conditions.
- i. Wildfire Planning and Statistics – [Fuels Reduction | CAL FIRE](#)
 1. Fuel Reduction Projects
 - a. 848 projects, 169.6% of the goal
 2. Combined Fuel Reduction
 - a. 156,254.5 acres treated, 156.3% of the goal
 - i. Unit Projects – 76,189.6 acres
 1. Northern Region: 32,910.3 acres
 2. Southern Region: 43,279.2 acres
 - b. Grant Projects: 75,054.8 acres
 - c. CFIP Projects: 5,010.2 acres
 3. Prescribed Fire (also counted in fuel reduction)
 - a. 61,327.6 acres treated, 122.7% of the goal
 6. Wildlands Fuels
 - a. As of this month, the Fuels Reduction Activity Report is reporting the highest Fuels Reduction numbers ever reported by CAL FIRE.
 - b. CalMAPPER V4 continues to move forward in development and testing.
 7. Pre-Fire Planning
 - a. 2025 Unit Fire Plans posted to the CAL FIRE website.
 - b. Fuels Treatment Effectiveness Reporting has started to increase with fire activity.
 - c. CWPP Toolkit consultations with local jurisdictions are ongoing with a steady flow of requests.
 8. CalStats
 - a. The 2024 Redbook is in the final stage of approval and will be posted to the CAL IRE website.
 - b. CALFIRS Working Group met and there are many improvements to CALFIRS underway for easier reporting and validation of data.
 - c. Monthly webinars discussing the transition to the National Emergency Response Information System (NERIS) have been successful with great attendance.

- ii. Community Wildfire Mitigation Assistance
 - 1. Land Use Planning
 - 1) Formal Safety Element reviews have been completed for cities of Bradbury and Chino and Sonoma County.
 - 2) Subdivision Review Fire Safety Surveys completed for cities of El Cajon and Arcadia.
 - i. All will be on the agenda for the next RPC meeting on July 22, 2025.
 - 2. National Fire Protection Association Firewise USA
 - 1) Currently 1280 communities in good standing!
 - i. More in the que.
 - ii. 43% of all communities nationwide are in California.
 - 3. [CWMA Statewide Clearinghouse Data Center](#)
 - 1) Adding new information all the time!
 - 2) Currently, working on new procedures for notification to Constant Contact subscriber list.
 - 3) <http://osfm.fire.ca.gov/what-we-do/Community-Wildfire-Preparedness-and-Mitigation/Clearinghouse-Data-Center>
 - 4. [Wildfire Prevention Grants Program](#)
 - 1) Open solicitation began on July 2, 2025, and runs through August 6, 2025
 - i. Up to \$135 million available
 - ii. Combination of Prop 4 Climate Bond Funds and CCI
 - iii. Weekly “Open House Hours” Wednesdays from 9:00-10:00am through July 2025
 - iv. Link to webinar from July 1, 2025 is on webpage.

B. California Wildfire Mitigation Program Update





3. MEMBER ORGANIZATION OVERVIEW

- A. Catherine Freeman, California State Association of Counties
- B. Roy Wright, Insurance Institute for Business and Home Safety

4. OLD BUSINESS

- A. Neighborhood Wildfire Mitigation Validation Program Workgroup Membership – Still waiting for members to volunteer for the workgroup. A list of organizations were built into the framework that are desired to participate. Once the volunteers are gathered, an invite will go to those organizations as well. Please provide names to Frank Bigelow (frank.bigelow@fire.ca.gov) as soon as possible. There are also two bills that would provide a different level of direction if passed. This will be discussed at a later date.
- B. Land Use Planning Workgroup – Had the third Land Use Planning Workgroup meeting last month discussing a two-part series on the cost effectiveness of resilient rebuilding. Part one discussed a paper titled “Building Wildfire Resistant Homes After Disasters Will Save Billions” by Headwater Economics. Today that topic will continue with the cost effectiveness of recently rebuilding and will be joined by Steve Fox to discuss an IBHS paper titled “Resilient Rebuilding, a Path Forward for Los Angeles”.

5. PRESENTATIONS

- A. Conflagrations: Experimental Research & Field Observations, Dr. Faraz Hedayati, IBHS
- B. Home Hardening Loan Program to Assist Low Income Homeowners – Jesse Ibarra and Ryan Sears, Neighborhood Partnership Housing Services

6. ROUNDTABLE

- A. In the interest of time, the roundtable discussion skipped for this meeting.

7. PUBLIC COMMENT

- A. There was no public comment.

Daniel Berlant

8. UPCOMING MEETING DATES FOR 2025

- A. August 19, 2025
715 P Street, 2nd Floor, 2-221
Sacramento, CA 95814

Daniel Berlant

8. MEETING ADJOURNED 3:00 PM

Daniel Berlant